

SENATE BILL 1236

By Kilby

AN ACT to amend Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 57, Part 1, solely for the purpose of defining the scope of practice of surgical technologists.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. Tennessee Code Annotated, Title 68, Chapter 57, Part 1, is amended by adding a new section thereto, as follows:

Section 68-57-1\_\_\_. For the purposes of this chapter, "surgical technologist" means one who works under supervision to facilitate the safe and effective conduct of invasive surgical procedures. This individual is usually employed by a hospital, medical office, or surgical center and supervised during the surgical procedure according to institutional policy and procedure to assist in providing a safe operating room environment that maximizes patient safety by performing other similar tasks including, but not limited to:

(1) Preparation of the operating room and the sterile field for surgical procedures by preparing sterile supplies, instruments, and equipment using sterile technique;

(2) Preparation of the operating room for surgical procedures by ensuring that surgical equipment is functioning properly and safely; and

(3) Passing instruments, equipment or supplies to a surgeon, sponging or suctioning an operative site, preparing and cutting suture material, holding retractors, transferring fluids or drugs, assisting in counting sponges, needles, supplies, and instruments, and performing other tasks as directed during a surgical procedure.

SECTION 2. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.